

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for ~~altering fatty acid composition~~ increasing the oleic acid content in plant seeds, comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a recombinant nucleic acid construct into a plant, said construct comprising at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a full length delta-12 fatty acid desaturase ~~mutant gene coding sequence~~, wherein said sequence encodes a delta-12 fatty acid desaturase protein having a substitution of a Lys residue for (Asp/Glu) mutation is in a (Ala/Gly)His(Asp/Glu)CysGlyHis conserved sequence; and

b) obtaining progeny from said plant, said progeny producing said seeds having an oleic acid content of from about 69% to about 90%

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said progeny produce seeds having a linoleic acid content of from about 1.0% to about 10.0%.

26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid construct effective for ~~decreasing linoleic~~ increasing oleic acid content when expressed in seeds, said construct comprising at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a ~~mutant~~ delta-12 fatty acid desaturase coding sequence encoding a delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene ~~equivalent~~ product having at least one mutation which renders said desaturase gene product non-functional, said mutation being the substitution of a Lys residue for X in a His-X-Cys-Y-His (SEQ ID NO:17) amino acid region, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of Asp and Glu and Y is selected from the group consisting of Gly and Ala.

30-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said mutation ~~in said delta-12 fatty acid desaturase mutant gene~~ is in a Ala-His-Glu-Cys-Gly-His conserved sequence.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said seeds have an oleic acid content of from about 74% to about 90%.

40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said seeds have an oleic acid content of from about 80% to about 90%.

41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein said seeds have an oleic acid content of from about 75% to about 88%.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein said seeds have an oleic acid content of from about 80% to about 88%.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said seeds have an α -linolenic acid content of from about 1.0% to about 10.0%.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein said seeds have a linoleic acid content of from about 1% to about 6%.

45-48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said plant is soybean.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said plant is rapeseed.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said plant is cotton.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said plant is corn.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said plant is safflower.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said seed-specific regulatory sequence is a bean β -phaseolin promoter.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said seed-specific regulatory sequence is an α subunit of soybean β -conglycinin promoter.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said seed-specific regulatory sequence is maize 18 kd oleosin promoter.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said seed-specific regulatory sequence is maize 15 kd zein promoter.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said seed-specific regulatory sequence is a *Brassica napin* promoter.

59. (Canceled)

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In the Drawings

Please substitute the enclosed four sheets of formal drawings for the originally filed drawings.